

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** Claims 18-19 and 24-31, **amend** Claim 15, and **add** Claims 32-44 as indicated:

Claims 1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A method comprising:

starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate being only an identifier of a corresponding full license certificate that is remotely stored on a server computer; and

upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to the full license certificate stored on the server computer, wherein the simplified local license certificate is based on an operating execution environment of the client computer, and wherein the operating execution environment is based on a maximum authorized power of a Central Processing Unit (CPU) in the client computer.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.

18-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 15, wherein the program is allowed to continue to execute when the CPU is operating up to a pre-determined percentage over the maximum authorized power.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 15, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 15, wherein the program is an operating system.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 15, wherein the program is a network stack.

24-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A machine-readable medium having a plurality of instructions processable, by a machine embodied therein, wherein the plurality of instructions, when processed by the machine causes the machine to perform a method that comprises:

starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate being only an identifier of a corresponding full license certificate that is remotely stored on a server computer; and

upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to the full license certificate stored on the server computer, wherein the simplified local license certificate is based on an operating execution environment of the client computer, and wherein the operating execution environment is based on a maximum authorized power of a Central Processing Unit (CPU) in the client computer.

33. (new) The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.

34. (new) The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.

34. (new) The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the program is allowed to continue to execute when the CPU is operating up to a pre-determined percentage over the maximum authorized power.

35 (new) The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.

36. (new) The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the program is an operating system.

37. (new) The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the program is a network stack.

38. (new) A system comprising:

means for starting a bootstrap process in a client computer;

means for, before the bootstrap process is completed, requesting an authorization for a program to load on the client computer, the authorization being determined by verifying that a simplified local license certificate for the program is stored on the client computer, the simplified local license certificate being only an identifier of a corresponding full license certificate that is remotely stored on a server computer; and

means for, upon a determination that the simplified local license certificate is stored on the client computer, completing execution of the bootstrap and revising the simplified local license certificate according to the full license certificate stored on the server computer, wherein the simplified local license certificate is based on an operating execution environment of the client computer, and wherein the operating execution environment is based on a maximum authorized power of a Central Processing Unit (CPU) in the client computer.

39. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in hardware installed on the client computer.
40. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the simplified local license certificate is revised according to changes in software loaded on the client computer.
41. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the program is allowed to continue to execute when the CPU is operating up to a pre-determined percentage over the maximum authorized power.
42. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the local license certificate is not time based.
43. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the program is an operating system.
44. (new) The system of claim 38, wherein the program is a network stack.